AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An oxygen-absorbing composition comprising 100 parts by weight of a carrier and an easily oxidizable organic composition carried on the carrier by impregnating a dried carrier with an easily oxidizable organic composition in liquid form, in an amount of 210-450 parts by weight, the carrier being a granulate of a mixture of (a) a calcium silicate compound represented by the following formula:

$CaO \cdot mSiO_2 \cdot nH_2O$

wherein m is a number from 1.6 to 6.5 and n is a positive number;
and (b) a binder, and the carrier having crystal structures constituted by aggregate of curved plate crystals comprising gyrolite calcium silicate and amorphous silicon dioxide, and the carrier being a granulate prepared by granulating and subsequently drying.

2. (Previously presented) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 1, wherein the easily oxidizable organic composition is carried on the carrier in an amount of 240-450 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the carrier.

3. (Currently amended) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 1, wherein the carrier is a granulate prepared by granulating a mixture comprising 100 parts by weight of the calcium silicate compound and 0.01 to 20 parts by weight of ~~a~~the binder.

4. (Currently amended) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 1, wherein the carrier is a granulate prepared by granulating a mixture comprising 100 parts by weight of the calcium silicate compound, 10 to 150 parts by weight of activated carbon and 0.01 to 20 parts by weight of ~~a~~the binder.

5. (Previously presented) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 3, wherein the binder is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(vinyl acetate), poly(acrylic acid), polyurethane, methylcellulose, ethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, guar gum, xanthan gum, tragacanth gum, carageenan, and sodium alginate.

6. (Previously presented) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 1, wherein n is from 1.0 to 1.5.

7. (Previously presented) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 1 , wherein the easily oxidizable organic composition comprises an easily oxidizable organic compound, an additive for putting the easily oxidizable organic compound in chemically easily oxidizable conditions and/or water.

8. (Original) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 7, wherein the easily oxidizable organic compound is at least one organic compound selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acid, salts of ascorbic acid, erythorbic acid, salts of erythorbic acid, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glycerol, glucose, xylose, xylitol, mannitol, sorbitol, catechol, resorcinol, hydroquinone, gallic acid,

pyrogallol, tocopherol, vegetable oils, fish oils, tall oil, unsaturated fatty acids derived from vegetable oils, unsaturated fatty acids derived from fish oils, unsaturated fatty acids derived from tall oil, butadiene oligomers, and isoprene oligomers.

9. (Previously presented) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 7, wherein the additive is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of alkali metal compounds, alkaline earth metal compounds, iron salts , manganese salts, copper salts, cobalt salts, carbonates, and hydrogen carbonates.

10. (Previously presented) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 7, wherein the easily oxidizable organic composition comprises 100 parts by weight of ascorbic acid or its salt , 60 to 200 parts by weight of water, 1 to 35 parts by weight of an alkali agent, and 5 to 30 parts by weight of a transition metal salt catalyst.

11. (Previously presented) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 7, wherein the easily oxidizable organic composition comprises 100 parts by weight of a polyhydric alcohol, 15 to 115 parts by weight of water, and 3 to 6 parts by weight of a transition metal salt catalyst.

12. (Previously presented) An oxygen-absorbing package comprising the oxygen-absorbing composition as defined in claim 1 packed by a gas-permeable packaging material.

13. (Previously presented) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 1, wherein the plate crystals are aggregated into corollaceous crystal structures.

14. (Previously presented) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 1, wherein said granulate has an average particle size of 100 μm or more.

15. (Previously presented) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 1, wherein the easily oxidizable organic composition is in a homogenous liquid from.

16-19. (Cancelled).